

War. When he came back to the Friendly Sons dinner in 1956, he had served two terms as president.

Perhaps the most notable speaker came in 1964. The Friendly Sons dinner was the first public appearance made by then-U.S. attorney general Robert F. Kennedy following the assassination of his brother, President John F. Kennedy. In September of that year, Robert Kennedy resigned to run for the U.S. Senate in New York. A column written 10 years later by one of his aides stated that Mr. Kennedy made his decision to remain in public service because of the amazing support and outpouring of affection shown to him in Scranton as 2,000 people lined the streets to greet him.

Many politicians have spoken at the Friendly Sons dinner. Beginning with John K. Tener in 1911 and including our current governor, Ed Rendell, in 2003, almost all Pennsylvania governors have attended the dinner, including Lackawanna County residents William W. Scranton and the late Robert P. Casey, who himself was a member of the Friendly Sons.

My good friend former U.S. Rep. Joseph McDade, also a Friendly Sons member, spoke in 1986. U.S. senators, including Eugene McCarthy, Henry "Scoop" Jackson, John Glenn, and Delaware's JOSEPH BIDEN—a native of Scranton—have spoken at the dinner.

Guests from abroad have also graced the stage, including former Irish Prime Ministers Garret FitzGerald and Albert Reynolds, Sinn Féin leader Gerry Adams and British Parliament member Martin McGuinness.

The Friendly Sons organization has about 900 members and elects officers each year. The president has the intimidating job of organizing the dinner and arranging for the speaker.

This year's president is Dr. Joseph T. Kelly Sr. and the speaker is Alex Maskey, the first Catholic mayor of Belfast, Northern Ireland.

Mr. Speaker, please join me and my fellow colleagues in the House of Representatives in congratulating the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick of Lackawanna County, an organization steeped in rich traditions, as they celebrate their 100th anniversary.

#### RECOGNIZING THE WE THE PEOPLE CIVICS TEAM FROM FREMONT, CALIFORNIA'S IRVINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

##### HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 16, 2005*

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the 2005 "We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution" class of Fremont, California's Irvington High School in my district for winning the state championship in January.

The We the People competition is an educational program administered by the Center for Civic Education of Los Angeles and funded by the U.S. Department of Education. The main focus of the program is to commemorate the framing and adoption of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights and to revitalize educational programs on the Constitution in our Nation's schools. It provides a course of instruction on the basic principles of our Nation's constitutional democracy and the history of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. Participants

then enter into competitive simulated congressional hearings following the course of study.

Students who wish to participate in the program must go through an interview process the year prior to the start of the class. The applicants must answer questions similar to the ones they will be asked during competition.

Accepted applicants learn and familiarize themselves with current event topics along with curriculum taught in the class. There are six different areas that are taught in the course and each participant must become an expert in each and every area.

The participants prepare for several months before testifying to a panel made up of judges representing the community. The judges ask detailed follow-up questions regarding the presentation, which require the students to think quickly and provide spontaneous answers. They compete first at two competitions at the local level before going to the state championships. Those who win at the state level go on to compete nationally.

In January, students from ten schools representing various areas of California came to Sacramento to compete in the state We the People championship. I am proud to say that the Irvington High School team, coached by their teacher Mrs. Cook-Kallio, won the competition and will be representing California during the national finals, which will be held from April 30th through May 3rd here, in Washington, DC.

The victory reflects the hard work and dedication these students put together after about nine months of preparation. The Irvington team spent countless hours in and out of class getting ready for the competition. Most groups stayed past 10 p.m. on some nights to take part in practice sessions where their teacher, Mrs. Cook-Kallio, along with other teachers and alumni of Irvington High School, drilled them on their subjects to try and simulate the environment of the competition.

I applaud the We the People class, Mrs. Cook-Kallio, and Irvington High School in reaching the national finals and am honored to have them represent the state of California at the national level. I join with other admirers and members in the community of Fremont in wishing the team luck. I hope to be giving another congratulatory speech once they become National champions.

#### HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF BEXAR COUNTY CONSTABLE ROBERT "MIKE" BLOUNT

##### HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 16, 2005*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Constable Robert Blount in my congressional district, for his exceptional career in law enforcement.

Robert Blount was elected as Constable of Precinct Four in January 2005, but has been actively serving his community for the last sixteen years. He believes in establishing a solid law enforcement agency that is committed to the needs of the community, and has devoted his department to serve the public through honesty and integrity.

Constable Blount is an excellent example of an elected official who understands the needs of his community. The mission for his department is to promote safety in the community by enforcing court orders, supporting early intervention activities, and to work together with neighboring law enforcement agencies.

Constable Blount is a man who believes in the value of community involvement and intervention. Currently he is focusing his department on lowering truancy levels and high school dropout rates, reducing neighborhood crime, and maintaining clear communication within the people in his community.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Bexar County Constable Robert "Mike" Blount for his dedication and service to the community.

#### IN HONOR OF AUDREY HOPE-MILTON

##### HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 16, 2005*

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker it is with great pleasure that I rise today to honor and pay tribute to Audrey Hope-Milton upon her nomination as a Jefferson Award finalist. Ms. Hope-Milton is a volunteer to the Stop the Violence Coalition, as the program administrator for the Playstation Too Mentoring Program. Ms. Hope-Milton is predominately concerned with the health, welfare and safety of young people and takes great care to make sure that they are not overlooked or forgotten.

Ms. Hope-Milton's passion for volunteer work comes from a religious family legacy of working with today's youth. Ms. Hope-Milton's success is a result of her giving back what was given to her. Ms. Hope-Milton's tireless efforts to help young people have touched the lives of many in our community.

Mr. Speaker, I commend and congratulate Ms. Hope-Milton upon her nomination as a finalist for the Jefferson Award. Ms. Hope-Milton's selflessness serves as an example to us all.

#### DEATH OF AGENT DAVID WILHELM

##### HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 16, 2005*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my condolences to the family, friends, and colleagues of Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agent David Wilhelm who was killed by a gunman in Atlanta, Georgia this past weekend. I join Agent Wilhelm's family, including the law enforcement community in America, in mourning the tragic loss of Agent Wilhelm.

Mr. Wilhelm dedicated his 18-year career in law enforcement to protecting America. He was one of the many men and women who put their lives on the line every single day, no matter what the danger. He was one of the good guys who helped to make America safer by putting away the bad guys. His specialty was investigating financial crimes, narcotics smuggling, and human smuggling.